

Application No.: 09/651,260
Group Art Unit: 2674
Reply dated February 20, 2004

Docket No.: 8733.285.00

REMARKS

At the outset, Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough review and consideration of the subject application. Further, Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended during an interview held on February 2, 2004, in which the Examiner and Applicant's representative were present. During the interview, specific amendments to the claims were discussed which the Examiner agreed would overcome the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. The Final Office Action dated March 7, 2003 and the Advisory Action dated November 28, 2003 have been received and their contents carefully reviewed.

Applicant hereby amends claims 1-5, adds claim 6, and respectfully submits no new matter has been entered.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The rejection of these claims is traversed and reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested in view of the claim amendments above. Specifically, Applicant has amended the claims to describe the present invention in a manner that is more clearly supported and enabled by the disclosure of the present application.

If the Examiner deems that a telephone conversation would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 496-7500.

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If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 20, 2004


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